

Remarks

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1–16.

Independent claim 20 has been amended herein by incorporating features from allowed claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments to claim 20.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallace et al. (US 6,621,483) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and further in view of Bower (US 2002/0072915). Applicant disagrees with the rejection of claim 20 as it was previously presented. However, in the interest of expediting favorable consideration of all the claims, claim 20 has been amended, as is noted herein. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 20 is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

As amended, claim 20 recites, *inter alia*, carrying out navigation in a backwards direction in a hierarchy of commands by solely removing a finger from and reapplying said finger to a user surface of a moveable physical member within a set time limit without regard to the length of time that the finger is applied immediately preceding the removing and re-applying of the finger.

The Examiner proposes combining the teaching of a screen pointer in Wallace, the mention of a double click in Bower, and the discussion of hierarchically organized menu systems in the AAPA to arrive at the claimed invention. In the statement of the reasons for allowance, the Examiner acknowledges that the prior art (including Wallace, Bower, and the AAPA) does not teach navigating backwards by removing a finger from a movable physical member and re-applying the finger within a set time limit without regard to the length of time that the finger is applied immediately preceding the removing and re-applying of the finger, as recited in claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed combination of Wallace, Bower, and the AAPA also fails to disclose each and every element of claim 20.

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For at least the reasons above, claim 20 recites distinct and patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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